## Wild and Scenic Rivers

Source: www.rivers.gov

## Safeguarding the Character of Our Nation's Unique Rivers

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. (Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968)

Rivers may be designated by Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretary of the Interior. Each river is administered by either a federal or state agency. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries. For federally administered rivers, the designated boundaries generally average one-quarter mile on either bank in the lower 48 states and one-half mile on rivers outside national parks in Alaska in order to protect river-related values.

The Act safeguards designated rivers by:

- Keeping them free-flowing
- Protecting their outstanding cultural and natural values, including water quality
- Allowing existing uses of rivers to continue where they do not conflict with river protection
- Building partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government

Free-flowing is defined in the Act at Section 16(b) as "existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway."

The Act purposefully strives to balance dam and other construction at appropriate sections of rivers with permanent protection for some of the country's most outstanding free-flowing rivers. To accomplish this, it prohibits federal support for actions such as the construction of dams or other instream activities that would harm the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, or outstanding resource values. However, designation does not affect existing water rights or the existing jurisdiction of states and the federal government over waters as determined by established principles of law.

As of April 2012, the National System protects 12,598 miles of 203 rivers in 39 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; this is a little more than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers. By comparison, more than 75,000 large dams across the country have modified at least 600,000 miles, or about 17%, of American rivers.

#### **Evaluation of Rivers**

Three step process:

- 1. Determination of Eligibility
- 2. Assigning of Potential Classification
- 3. Determination of Suitability

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for designation, a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs). Thus, the eligibility analysis consists of an examination of the river's hydrology, including any man-made alterations, and an inventory of its natural, cultural, and recreational resources. In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale.

There are a variety of methods to determine whether certain resources are so unique, rare, or exemplary as to make them outstandingly remarkable. The determination that a river area contains ORVs is a professional judgment on the part of the IDT, based on objective, scientific analysis. Input from organizations and individuals familiar with specific river resources should be sought and documented as part of the process.

#### **Outstanding Remarkable Values**

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly riverrelated. That is, they should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within 1/4 mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river

The following eligibility criteria are offered to foster greater consistency within the federal river-administering agencies. They are intended to set minimum thresholds to establish ORVs and are illustrative but not all-inclusive. If utilized in an agency's planning process, these criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison, and additional criteria may be included.

- Scenery: The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.
- **Recreation:** Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating.
  - o Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
  - The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
- **Geology:** The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures).

- **Fish:** Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.
  - O Populations: The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
  - O Habitat: The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- **Wildlife:** Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.
  - O Populations: The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
  - O Habitat: The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- **Prehistory:** The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.
- **History:** The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.
- Other Values: While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values

consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.

#### **River Classifications**

If found eligible, a candidate river is analyzed as to its current level of development (water resource projects, shoreline development, and accessibility) and a recommendation is made that it be placed into one or more of three classes – wild, scenic, or recreational.

- Wild River Areas Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- Scenic River Areas Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational River Areas** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Regardless of classification, each river in the National System is administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that caused it to be designated. Designation neither prohibits development nor gives the federal government control over private property. Recreation, agricultural practices, residential development, and other uses may continue. Protection of the river is provided through voluntary stewardship by landowners and river users and through regulation and programs of federal, state, local, or tribal governments. In most cases not all land within boundaries is, or will be, publicly owned, and the Act limits how much land the federal government is allowed to acquire from willing sellers. Visitors to these rivers are cautioned to be aware of and respect private property rights.

# Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water	Free of impoundment	Free of impoundment	Some existing impoundment or diversion
Resource Development			The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity
	The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable	The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable	The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable
	A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable	The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable	Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses
	Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No going timber harvest	Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the river bank	May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail	Accessible in places by roads	Readily accessible by road or railroad
	No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicle travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the	Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of inconspicuous roads	The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access

	river area is	or railroads is	points is acceptable			
	acceptable	acceptable				
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic				
	Federal criteria or	Rivers Act. The Federa	l Water Pollution			
	federally approved	ed Control Act Amendments of 1972 have ma				
	State Standards for					
	aesthetics, for	States be made fishable	and swimmable.			
	propagation of fish	Therefore, rivers will no	ot be precluded from			
	and wildlife normally	scenic or recreational cl	assification because of			
	adapted to the habitat	poor water quality at the	e time of their study,			
	of the river, and for	provided a water quality	y improvement plan			
	primary contact	exists or is being develo	oped in compliance with			
	recreation	applicable Federal and	State laws.			
	(swimming) except					
	where exceeded by					
	natural conditions					

Ou	tstandi	ng R	emar	kable <b>V</b>	Values	5					
Eligible	Eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers – 1987 LMP										
							Legislative				
River Name	Scenic	Rec	Geo	F&W	H/C	Bot	Action				
Big Laurel	X	X	X	X	X	X	No				
Big Snowbird	X			X	X						
							No				
Davidson		X		X	X		No				
E. Fork Pigeon	X			X	X						
Dark Prong	X			X							
Yellowstone Prong	X			X	X		No				
French Broad	X	X	X	X	X	X	No				
Linville	X		X	X	X		No				
Nantahala – above lake				X	X	X	No				
Nantahala – below lake	X	X	X	X		X	No				
Mills River System							No				
South Fork	X	X		X	X	X					
North Fork					X						
Mills					X						
Tellico					X		No				
Nolichucky	X	X	X								
-							No				

Outs	standin	g Rei	nark	able V	alues	– Des	ignated Wild and Scenic	Rivers
River Name	Scenic	Rec	Geo	F&W	H/C	Bot	Length	Legislative Action
Chattooga	X	X	X	X	X	X	Total of 58.7 miles from 0.8 miles below Cashiers Lake in North Carolina to the Tugaloo Reservoir. The West Fork from its confluence with the main stem upstream 7.3 miles. Wild - 41.6 miles; Scenic - 2.5 miles; Recreational - 14.6 miles;	Added to WSR system – May 10, 1974
Horsepasture	X	X	X	X	X	X	Total of 4.2 miles between Bohaynee Road #218 to Lake Jocassee Scenic - 3.6 miles; Recreational - 0.6 miles	Added to WSR system – October 26, 1986
Wilson Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X	Total of 23.3 miles from the headwaters below Calloway Peak to the confluence with Johns River. Wild - 4.6 miles; Scenic - 2.9 miles; Recreational - 15.8 miles;	Added to WSR system – August 18, 2000

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classifica tion	ORVs	Description
Big Laurel and Puncheon Fork	Madison	Confluence with French Broad River to US Highway 25	4	1982/ 1993	S	S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Flows through a 1200 foot deep gorge. Fishing, hiking, viewing scenery, and whitewater boating. Four rare fish species. Ghost town of Runion located on Big Laurel Creek. High probability for archeological sites.
Big Laurel and Puncheon Fork	Madison	US Highway 25 to headwaters	28	1982/ 1993	R	S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See initial comments
Big Laurel Creek and Puncheon Fork	Madison	RM O, confluence with French Broad River, to RM 32, headwaters south of TN State line.	32	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Fast flowing stream with exceptional scenic values, including 1200 foot deep gorge area.
Cane River	Yancey	RM O, confluence with Nolichucky River, to RM 39, headwaters in Mount Mitchell.	39	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Scenic, recreational mountain stream.
Catawba River	McDowell	RM 203, backwaters of Lake James, to RM 225, headwaters in vicinity of Black Mountain.	22	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Inspiring scenery rich in diversity of flora.

Catawba River, Henry Fork	Catawba, Burke	RM 18, above dam at Brookford, to RM 45, headwaters in South Mountains Management Area near Rutherford County Line.	27	1982		S, R, F, W	Natural, scenic corridor area abounding in flora.
Catawba River, Warrior Fork	Burke	RM O, confluence with Catawba River, to RM 24, headwaters in Long Arm Mountain.	24	1982		S, R, G	Rocky whitewater stream with steep gradient and numerous boulders.
Cheoah and Snowbird Creek	Graham	RM 16, backwaters of Lake Santeetlah Reservoir, to RM 35, headwaters near TN State Line.	19	1982		S, R, F, W, H, C	Small stream that flows through Nantahala National Forest.
Cheoah and Snowbird Creek	Graham	Backwater of Lake Santeetlah to Owl Camp Branch	10	1982/ 1993	R	S, F, W, H, C	Fishing, hunting, hiking, primitive camping, and viewing scenery. Largest stream in NC with fish population comprised solely of brook trout. Historical interest relative to railroad logging that occurred in 1930's.
Cheoah and Snowbird Creek	Graham	Owl Camp Branch to headwaters	9	1982/ 1993	W	S, F, W, H, C	Has unique "wild" brook trout population.

Cold Springs Creek	Haywood	RM O, confluence with Pigeon River, to RM 6, headwaters near Madison County Line.	6	1982		S, R, F, W	Small mountain stream that flows entirely within Harmon Den Wildlife Management Area.
Cullasaja River	Macon	From spillway of Lake Sequoyah (Town of Highlands) to the confluence with Little Tennessee River.	24	1995	S	S, R, G, F, W, H, C, O	In a 7.5-mile national forest section, the river drops 1300 feet. Known as the Cullasaja Gorge, it has three well-known waterfalls. The gorge has been recognized as botanically diverse, beautiful, and geologically unique in the Southern Blue Ridge. Numerous rare plants occur within the gorge. US64 roughly parallels the river and has been designated a USFS Scenic Byway. The river is a NC Class B trout stream.  Archaeological sites have been identified dating from as early as the Archaic Period.
Davidson River	Transylvania	RM O, confluence with French Broad River, to RM 16, headwaters south of Haywood County Line.	16	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Highly scenic stream with diversity of recreational opportunities; within Pisgah Wildlife Management Area.
Davidson River	Transylvania	Confluence with French Broad River to headwaters south of Haywood County line	16	1982/ 1993	R	F, W, H, C	Classified as special native trout waters. High probability for archeological sites. Part of old Vanderbilt estate where forestry was first practiced in America.

French Broad River	Buncombe	Barnard, NC, to Hot Springs, NC	8	1982/ 1993	S	S, R, G, F, W, H, C	River exposes unique structure and group of formations called Hot Springs Window. Thermal springs are unique to NC. Significant falls.
French Broad River	Buncombe	Hot Springs, NC, to Tennessee State line	8	1982/ 1993	R	S, R, G, F, W, H, C	
French Broad River	Buncombe	Asheville, NC, to Barnard, NC	22	1982/ 1993	R	S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Whitewater boating, fishing, and duck hunting. Large number of rare and native fish species. High probability for archeological sites. Was lifeline in settlement and development of western NC.
French Broad River	Madison, Buncombe	RM O 101, TN State line, to RM 138, Asheville.	37	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Excellent canoeing stream that supports diversity of wildlife and variety of flora.
French Broad River	Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania	RM 148, above Asheville, to RM 208, Rosman.	60	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See initial comments.
Johns River	Burke, Caldwell	RM O, confluence with Catawba, to RM 19, Collettsville.	19	1982		S, R, F, W, H, C	Remote forested corridor.
Linville River	Burke, Avery	RM 7, one mile below NC 126 Bridge, to RM 44, headwaters five miles south of Banner Elk.	37	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Spectacular gorge area and continuous series of waterfalls; excellent hiking opportunities in Roan Mountain National Forest.

Linville River	Avery, Burke	Headwaters to northern boundary of Linville Gorge Wilderness	22	1982/ 1993	R	S, G	Linville Gorge in southern part of Grandfather Mountain Window has complex sequence of rocks emplaced by two overriding splay thrust sheets.
Linville River	Avery, Burke	Northern wilderness boundary to southern wilderness boundary	12	1982/ 1993	W	S, G	See initial comments
Linville River	Avery, Burke	Southern wilderness boundary to Lake James one mile below NC 126 bridge	3	1982/ 1993	S	S, G	See initial comments
Little Tennessee River	Swain, Macon	RM 85, above Lake Fontana, to RM 108, Lake Emory.	23	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Excellent float stream flowing over a bed of gravel, boulders, and ledges bordered by beautiful scenery.
Mills and South Fork	Henderson, Transylvania	RM O, confluence with French Broad River, to RM 29, headwaters near Haywood County Line.	29	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Small remote mountain stream affording variety of recreational values; upper reach in Pisgah National Forest.
Nantahala River	Swain, Macon	RM 4, Lake Fontana, to RM 22, Nantahala Powerhouse and Aquone Lake.	18	1982		S, R, G, F, W	One of most popular recreational streams in the southeast; flows through deep gorge area.
Nantahala River	Clay, Macon	RM 29, backwaters of Lake Aquone Reservoir, to RM 48, headwaters.	19	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See initial comments.

Nantahala River (above lake)	Macon	Backwaters of Nantahala Lake to headwaters in Standing Indian basin near NC-GA State line	19	1982/ 1993	R	W, H, C, O	Native trout waters. Four bogs are significant examples of mountain wetlands. Habitat for rare bog turtle and wetland-bog plant communities. Significant Native American sacred site.
Nantahala River (below lake)	Macon, Swain	Lake Fontana to Nantahala Powerhouse and lake	18	1982/ 1993	R	S, R, G, W	Nantahala Gorge is most extensive formation in southwestern NC of limestone and Murphy marble. Number of rare or endemic Southern Appalachian plant species. Whitewater boating, picnicking, fishing, and viewing scenery.
New River, South Fork	Ashe, Watauga	RM 22, junction of Dog Creek east of Jefferson, to RM 91, headwaters near Boone.	69	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	RM 0 through 22 designated component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
Nolichucky River	Mitchell, Yancey (NC) Union (TN)	The main stem from Poplar, NC downstream to the railroad bridge at Unaka Springs, TN	8	1993	S	S, R, G	Spectacular scenery with steep slopes rising more than 2,000 feet adjacent to the river. The Gorge is a popular attraction for whitewater boaters, including commercial outfitters.
North Toe River	Yancey, Mitchell, Avery	RM O, confluence with Cane and Nolichucky Rivers, to RM 46, US 19E bridge north of Ingalls.	46	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Scenic mountain stream with many overhanging rocks and bluffs.

Oconaluftee River	Swain	RM O, confluence with Tuckasegee River, to RM 22, headwaters near Weaver Mount and TN State Line.	22	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Scenic recreational stream that flows through the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.
Pigeon River, East Fork	Haywood	First bridge on US Highway 276 to Shining Rock Wilderness boundary on US 276	3	1982/ 1993	R	S	Numerous cascades and small falls.
Pigeon River, East Fork	Haywood	Shining Rock Wilderness boundary on US 276 to headwaters	4	1982/ 1993	W	S	Primitive and accessible by foot travel only. Numerous cascades and small falls.
Pigeon River, Little East Fork	Haywood	RM O, confluence with West Fork of Pigeon, to RM 8, headwaters in Sherwood Wilderness Management Area.	8	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Flows through Pisgah National Forest.
Pigeon, East Fork	Haywood	RM 14, US 276 bridge (first crossing), to RM 21, headwaters northeast of Black Mountain	7	1982		S, R, F, W	Highly scenic stream; headwaters in Sherwood Wildlife Management area.

Tellico River	Cherokee	RM 47, TN State Line to RM 53, headwaters near Graham County Line north of McDaniel Bald.	6	1982		S, R, G, F, H, C	Wild, whitewater mountain stream with spectacular waterfalls and variety of recreational opportunities.
Tellico River	Cherokee	NC-TN State line to headwaters near Graham County line north of McDaniel Bald	6	1982/ 1993	R	0	Considered eligible for study because of outstanding values on section of river in TN such as waterfalls and wild whitewater.
Thompson River	Transylvania	Headwaters near Jackson County/Trans ylvania County line to the South Carolina state line.	6	1995	W	S, R, G, W, O	The river contains scenic waterfalls, cascades, and rapids. The main gorge and sheer cliffs caused by erosion and river action are impressive. Extensive surrounding forests support healthy populations of game and non-game species, including black bear. The main gorge area contains tropical species, while other vegetation representative of the Southern Appalachians are found.

Toxaway River	Transylvania	From N.C. 281 bridge to Lake Jocassee.	13	1995	W	S, R, G, W, O	The Toxaway lies within a scenic, wild, and rugged mountain region. The terrain is characterized by high mountain balds, rock outcrops and cliffs, and lower hills and valleys. There are picturesque waterfalls and rugged gorges. Rare and unique species are present. The remote watershed harbors good populations of non-game and mountain game species.
Tuckasegee River	Swain, Jackson	RM 15, Bryson City, to RM 53, Lake Cedar Cliff Impoundment	38	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Scenic, natural stream that flows through ancestral home of Cherokee Indians; significant potential for recreational activities.
Watauga River	Watauga, Avery	RM 51, TN State Line, to RM 77, headwaters north of Grandfather Mountain	26	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Spectacular, very steep and scenic Watauga gorge area with several falls and huge boulders; recreational opportunities

Whitewater River	Transylvania and Jackson	From confluence of Whitewater Creek and Silver Run Creek near NC 107 in the Nantahala National Forest to the South Carolina state line.	7	1995	W	S, R, G, F, W, O	The exposure of ancient rocks produces some of the most spectacular scenery in western North Carolina. Sheer cliffs and gorges are caused by erosion. Upper Whitewater Falls cascades 411 feet. The Whitewater Gorge contains tropical mosses and ferns. Water quality and fishing are excellent. A portion of the 43-mile Foothills Trail runs form the USFS parking lot at upper Whitewater Falls.
Wilson Creek	Caldwell, Avery	RM O, confluence with Johns River, to RM 20, headwaters one mile below Grandfather Mountain.	20	1982			
Wilson Creek	Avery, Caldwell	Headwaters to NC Highway 90	6	1982/ 1993	W	S, R, G, H, C	Exposes formations of Grandfather Window structural feature. Native trout waters. Fishing, hiking, primitive camping, hunting, wading, swimming, and viewing scenery. Old CCC camp at Mortimer.
Wilson Creek	Avery, Caldwell	NC Highway 90 to Johns River	14	1982/ 1993	R	S, R, G, H, C	Challenging canoe/kayak run with Class II-V rapids.